

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, passing this bill was a very fine accomplishment. Of course, we Senators get up and stand and are very proud of it, as we should be. But without our staffs, we could not get any of this done.

So I would just like to take a few minutes to thank my staff, many of whom were personally impacted by Superstorm Sandy, who worked tirelessly to ensure that New York's needs were adequately addressed as my State continues to react and recover from Superstorm Sandy and her aftermath. Because of their hard work and tireless efforts, I know New York's needs have been addressed in the Sandy supplemental legislation that passed through the Senate earlier this evening.

My great LD Heather McHugh coordinated this effort, making sure that every type of aid was considered and included in this package. She has great knowledge of both the Senate and the House, and it was invaluable in getting this done.

My deputy chief of staff, Erin Sager Vaughan, who is so selfless and wonderful in making sure that every "t" is crossed and every "i" is dotted—I thank her as well.

Her team: Gerry Petrella did an amazing job. He is a Long Islander. He felt the impact of this storm personally, and he was there every step of the way making sure we did not leave out anything. Megan Richardson, Meghan Taira, Jonah Crane, Grant Kerr, Sean Byrne, Hana Greenberg, Veronica Duron were all exceptional on our legislative staff in bringing their expertise to help New York.

I wish to thank my press team: Brian Fallon, Max Young, Meredith Kelly, Lindsay Kryzak, Marissa Kaufman, Chris Scribner, who did a great job.

While this legislation is a tremendous accomplishment for my staff in Washington, DC, I would also like to thank members of my regional offices who not only lived through and experienced Sandy but made themselves available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to see that the needs of the people of New York would be recognized and addressed, who extended their arms to those who were in trouble.

Martin Brennan heads my New York operation. He had a torn Achilles and hobbled around in a cast, but he led our staff, as he always does, as a team and exquisitely.

Our casework team, they are seasoned. Suzie Orlove—whom I went to second grade with and has been working for me for over 30 years—Sydney Renwick, Joyce Chang, Julietta Lopez, Jackie Benavides, Karine Vorperian have spent months helping New Yorkers cut through the redtape and get the aid they need.

Nick Martin did an amazing job of connecting resources to needs across New York City and Long Island. Cody Peluso and Deanna Robertson helped make sure New York's northern suburbs were not forgotten.

Touring the damaged communities was a heart-wrenching task. Lane Bodian, who travels with me, was with me every step of the way. Our logistics team of Megan Murphy Vlasto, Jenna Jones, and Alex Victor helped make sure we got where we needed to be in those very difficult days after the storm and ever since.

Additionally, two members of my team were hit hard by the storm. They lost their houses or their houses were badly flooded. I wish to thank them because they ignored their personal situations, particularly in the days after the storm, to help New Yorkers. For that, I will always be grateful to Kyle Strober, who runs our Long Island office, and to Michelle Basic, his assistant, whose family's home was flooded badly on Staten Island.

Finally, the leader of our team is a guy named Mike Lynch, who has molded us into a great operation. He did not put his name in here, characteristically, but he deserves a huge amount of thanks.

Of course, my colleagues Senators GILLIBRAND, LAUTENBERG, MENENDEZ, and their teams were essential. We worked as sort of a seamless web, and I look forward to working with them on the implementation of this package.

I wish to thank Senator Inouye. When he was ill, he continued to meet with Senators GILLIBRAND, MENENDEZ, LAUTENBERG, and myself. We knew how much he cared. I know he is looking down, as I think Senator MIKULSKI said, and he is smiling at the good work we did in a bipartisan way to get this bill passed.

Of course, I wish to thank Senator MIKULSKI. This was the first bill she managed. Let it be a metaphor for all her bills: Senator GILLIBRAND and I have just labeled her "the engineer." She led that train down the track speedily, without flaw, but carefully and was a great leader.

Senator LANDRIEU, the chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee, was incredible in giving us advice and help, and even in those darkest days was there for us. The other subcommittee leaders—Senator LEAHY, Senator FEINSTEIN, Senator MURRAY—all made sure this package became a reality. Their staffs—Charlie Houy, Lilah Helms, Gabby Batkin, Chuck Keiffer, and Alex Keenan—were great.

Of course, my good friend, truly one of the closest friends I have and a great leader of this place, who understood the need and went out of his way for us, Senator REID, was invaluable. It

would not have happened without him or his amazing floor staff, led by Gary Myrick and Tim Mitchell, who gave us tremendous advice and help. So I also thank them.

Finally, I thank my Republican colleagues across the aisle for putting aside partisanship. We had real differences. But this bill was debated and conducted in the right way. We allowed a lot of amendments. They were not blocked. There were no cheap shots. It was great.

I also wish to thank Gary's colleague, Dave Schiappa, for his advice and help as well.

With that, I wish everybody a nice Saturday and see you all on Sunday.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to amend the order to allow a statement by Senator PRYOR.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I have a couple things to say. First, I know the Senator from New York just left, Mr. SCHUMER. I want the people of New York to know, all the citizens of that State, how hard he worked to get this legislation passed. The entire delegation of New York and New Jersey were outstanding.

But Senator SCHUMER, when the storm was still raging, was on the phone calling Senators and Congressmen and calling the White House to get help for his State and the region. He deserves a lot of credit for getting us here. But truthfully, the delegations of those States pulled together and showed a lot of leadership. We appreciate that.

Also, we were so pleased Senator MIKULSKI was able to take the lead on this bill. It was a lot of fun for all of us to see her in action in her first real bill that she handled on the floor as chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 30, 2012, AT 1 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 1 p.m. on Sunday, December 30, 2012.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:50 p.m., adjourned until Sunday, December 30, 2012, at 1 p.m.